

# Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

## a just war? or just a war?

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**MOM'S GOT A TOUCH OF WHIPLASH LATELY.**  
GOD! HOW CAN YOU LOOK AT THESE PICTURES OF TERRORIZED REFUGEES AND NOT WANT TO GO OVER THERE AND TAKE MILOSEVIC OUT?

**THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WASHINGTON WANTS YOU TO FEEL. MAKES YOU WONDER WHAT PICTURES WE'RE NOT SEEING.**

**@AT WORK...**  
WE'RE BEING MANIPULATED BY THE PRESS! WHERE'S THE BALANCED COVERAGE? WHERE'S THE FOOTAGE OF ALL THE CIVILIANS MANGLED BY NATO BOMBS?

**UH... DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE LATEST? US JETS MASSACRED A CONVOY OF REFUGEES WITH CLUSTER BOMBS BY MISTAKE. IT'S ALL OVER THE NEWS.**

**@AT LUNCH...**  
HAVEN'T WE LEARNED? YOU CAN'T STOP VIOLENCE WITH MORE VIOLENCE! SO FAR, ALL THE BOMBING HAS DONE IS KILL MORE PEOPLE AND ESCALATE THE SERBS' ATROCITIES!

**SO WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST? THAT WE SEND A SQUADRON OF GUAKERS OVER THERE? FACIT LEFTIST CLICHES AREN'T GONNA KEEP PEOPLE FROM BEING RAPED AND SHOT AND DRAGGED FROM THEIR HOMES.**

**@BACK AT WORK...**  
I MEAN, THIS IS GENOCIDE! WE SHOULD USE WHATEVER FORCE IS NECESSARY TO STOP IT!

**ETHNIC CLEANSING** IS A TERRIBLE THING, BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME AS GENOCIDE. AND WHEN OFFICIALS TOSS THAT WORD AROUND FOR SPIN CONTROL, IT'S AN INSULT TO VICTIMS OF THE NAZIS, TO NATIVE AMERICANS, TO THE TUTSIS...

**I THINK IT'S AN INSULT NOT TO CALL THIS GENOCIDE. AS A KID I ASKED MY GRANDPARENTS WHY THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING AFTER THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST. IT'D BE A HYPOCRITE NOT TO SUPPORT GROUND TROOPS NOW.**

**@AT THE Y...**  
AREN'T WE MORALLY OBLIGATED TO INTERVENE?

**HONEY, IF YOU THINK WE'RE IN THIS WAR TO PROTECT THE ETHNIC ALBANIANS, I HAVE A BRIDGE IN JUST YOUR COLOR. THERE'S STUFF JUST AS BAD HAPPENING IN LOTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, AND WE'RE EITHER IGNORING IT, OR PAYING FOR IT.**

**@OVER DINNER WITH LOIS & GINGER...**  
BOMBING YUGOSLAVIA IS IMMORAL! NATO DOESN'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT THE ETHNIC ALBANIANS OR HUMAN RIGHTS. IT'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT "GEOPOLITICAL STABILITY," WHICH IS NEWSPEAK FOR "WAL \*MART."

**BUT WHO CARES WHAT NATO'S MOTIVATION IS IF IT STOPS MILOSEVIC? WE'RE ON THE VICTIM'S SIDE FOR ONCE. LET'S KICK FASCIST BUTT!**

**GOOD IDEA, LOIS. DECIMATING THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE A BIG BOOST TO THE MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY.**

**@AND BACK AT HOME...**  
Y'KNOW, YOU WERE TOTALLY RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS THINKING, BUT I'VE COME BACK TO MY PACIFIST SENSES.

**GOD! SOMEONE'S GOTTA TAKE THIS GUY OUT!**

## dustup

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**HI, SPANKY! UH... WHAT'RE YOU DOING?**

**OH, I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MIND YOUR MODERN'S SO MUCH FASTER THAN MINE. I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR SOME REAL INFORMATION TO COUNTER THIS REGURGITATED PENTAGON BRIEFING THAT PASSES FOR TV NEWS.**

**I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T FOOL AROUND ON MY COMPUTER. UH... I JUST FINISHED ALL MY GRADING AND I HAVEN'T BACKED IT UP YET.**

**HEY, SYDNEY, D'YOU HAVE THAT GAME 'NANOSAUR'?**

**I DON'T HAVE ANY GAMES, MO. I REALLY WISH YOU WOULDN'T...**

**OH, NO? THEN WHAT'S IN THIS FOLDER? THE ONE SO CRYPTICALLY LABELED 'GAMES'? IS THAT WHERE YOU HIDE YOUR CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS?**

**...ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION. IN FACT, I HAVE A HARD ON RIGHT NOW.**

**DON'T OPENTHAT!**

**WHY? WHAT'S IN HERE?**

**AAA!**

**OOOPS.**

**KLUNK**

**MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER TAX BRACKET...**  
YEAH, ANN WAS OVERREACTING ABOUT THE CIRCUMCISION DISCUSSION. IT'S NOT RIGHT TO KEEP THE BOYS APART JUST BECAUSE THE GROWN-UPS HAVE A DISAGREEMENT.

**WELL, I THINK TOMI FLEW OFF THE HANDLE A BIT HERSELF. SO RAFFI CAN STILL GO TO THE STAR WARS MOVIE WITH YOU SATURDAY?**

**OF COURSE! SO HOW'S THE "ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE" RACKET?**

**PRETTY GOOD. WE JUST TOOK ON A SUIT AGAINST A REAL DIRT-BAG DEVELOPER. THIS GUY SOLD LAND TO THE CITY FOR LOW-COME HOUSING THIRTY YEARS AGO, AND DIDN'T MENTION IT USED TO BE A PETROCHEMICAL DUMP.**

**NO KID-DING.**

**YEAH, AND NOT ONLY THAT, HIS LAWYERS CLAIM THE REASON THERE'S SO MUCH CANCER AMONG THE RESIDENTS IS BECAUSE THEY SMOKE MORE THAN AVERAGE! CAN YOU BELIEVE THOSE MORAL IMBECILES?**

**SOUNDS LIKE A PERFECTLY REASONABLE DEFENSE TO ME. THESE CANCER CLUSTERS ARE NOTORIOUSLY DIFFICULT TO TRACE TO AN UNDERLYING ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSE.**

**THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. YOU SHOULD REPRESENT THIS GUY.**

**I ALREADY DO. AND ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'D RATHER GO ALONE WITH BILLY TO "EPI" SOPE ONE." YOU KNOW, DO SOME FATHER-SON BONDING.**

**PERFECT! MAYBE YOU CAN LURE HIM OVER TO THE DARK SIDE OF THE FORCE WITH YOU!**

## boy trouble

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**MEEMA, LOOK!**

**OH MY GOD! CALL THE AMBULANCE! THAT'S THE WORST CASE OF FINGER-NAIL FUNGUS I'VE EVER SEEN!**

**IT'S NOT FUNGUS! IT'S POLISH, SEE? IT'S ALL SPARKLY!**

**OH, PHEW! WE WON'T HAVE TO AMPUTATE THAT! THAT'S REALLY COOL, RAF.**

**EMILY BROUGHT IT TO SCHOOL. I HAVE IT ON MY TOES TOO.**

**HI, BABE. DID YOU SEE OUR LITTLE FASHION PLATE?**

**YES, I DID RAFFI, DID YOU TELL MEEMA WHAT HAPPENED?**

**NO.**

**OH, JOY.**

**WELL, UM, TAYLOR SAID ONLY GIRLS WEAR NAIL POLISH AND SO I, SO I SAID BUT I'M A BOY AND I'M WEARING NAIL POLISH, AND SO YOU'RE WRONG!**

**RAFFI, I'M PROUD OF YOU! THAT WAS A VERY SMART THING TO SAY!**

**AND THEN I KICKED HIM.**

**MEANWHILE...**  
AMAZING, YOU'D THINK THAT IN THE STAGGERING AMOUNT OF NEWS ANALYSIS THIS ISSUE HAS GENERATED, SOMEONE WOULD HAVE AT LEAST MENTIONED THE INTERESTING LITTLE COINCIDENCE THAT ALL THESE PISTOL-PACKIN' PUBESCENTS ARE BOYS.

**WHITE BOYS. CAN YOU IMAGINE IF IT WAS GIRLS, OR AFRICAN-AMERICAN KIDS WIPING OUT THEIR HOMEROOMS WITH TEC-9S? ALL THESE LAMENTATIONS ABOUT OUR GENERIC "CHILDREN" WOULD GET AWFUL SPECIFIC AWFUL QUICK.**

**WELL, MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT EVERYONE TAKES FOR GRANTED THAT BOYS ARE MORE PRONE TO VIOLENCE.**

**DUH! MALE VIOLENCE IS INVISIBLE. NO ONE WANTS TO LOOK AT IT AS A PROBLEM. THEY'D RATHER BLAME ANYTHING ELSE.**

**I MEAN, I'M SURE ALL THAT AGGRESSION CAME IN HANDY BACK IN THE PLEISTOCENE, BUT COME ON! LET'S EVOLVE A LITTLE, BOYS!**

**MS. KISSER THINKS PERHAPS HE'S NOT GETTING ENOUGH ROUGH-HOUSING AT HOME. YOU KNOW, WHAT WITH HAVING TWO MOTHERS AND ALL.**

**OH REALLY? PERHAPS MS. KISSER COULD USE A LITTLE ROUGH-HOUSING HERSELF.**

## Taskmistress

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**HAVING TROUBLE FINDING ROOM IN YOUR INSANE SCHEDULE FOR ALL THE ELEMENTS OF A FULL, BALANCED LIFE?**

**MULTITASK ALONG WITH GINGER!**

**WHILE KNOCKING OFF HER RESPONSIBILITIES AS A DUTIFUL DAUGHTER, A CARING PET OWNER, AND A CONSCIENTIOUS NEIGHBOR, SHE KEEPS UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS!**

**ADAM SWAPPED THE SPERM AT THE CLINIC? BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DNA TEST?... MOM? MOM, CALM DOWN. IT'S ONLY "GENERAL HOSPITAL!"**

**ABOUT TIME. I WAS GONNA CALL THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TOMORROW.**

**AND WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY BREAKFASTING AND COMMUTING TO WORK, SHE DOES HER POLITICAL ACTIVISM!**

**THANK YOU FOR CALLING THE BIDWEISER HOTLINE. YOUR VOTE IN FAVOR OF OUR GAY-THEMED ADS HAS BEEN DULY COUNTED.**

**IT'S SO NICE TO FEEL I'VE MADE A CONTRIBUTION.**

**TEACHING COLLEGE ENGLISH IS ALL-CONSUMING, BUT GINGER RENEWS HERSELF ON THE JOB WITH SPIRITUALLY CENTERING VISUALIZATION EXERCISES!**

**MS. JORDAN? ABOUT THIS C MINUS ON MY PAPER? I MEAN, DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A LITTLE HARSH?**

**JESSICA, IT READ LIKE IT WAS RANDOMLY TYPED BY CHIMPS.**

**HEY, I GOT THIS FROM A VERY REPUTABLE SOURCE! COME ON, LET'S SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE AND CALL IT A "B." I'M PAYING YOUR SALARY HERE.**

**AT HOME, SHE SUCCESSFULLY JUGGLER HER OBLIGATIONS AS A COLLECTIVE HOUSEHOLD MEMBER AND HER COMMITMENT TO A NURTURING DIET OF WHOLE, UNPROCESSED FOODS.**

**LEMMIE GUESS. IT'S GINGER'S NIGHT TO MAKE DINNER.**

**MMM, CARROTS, SUNFLOWER SEEDS, AND RAW TOFU.**

**HEY, COOKING DESTROYS ENZYMES AND LEADS TO PREMATURE AGING. YOU'LL THANK ME ONE DAY.**

**MANY OF US END UP PUTTING EXERCISE AND INTIMATE TIME WITH FRIENDS ON THE BACK BURNER BUT NOT GINGER!**

**SO THEN SYDNEY TRIES TO STOP ME FROM OPENING THE FOLDER AND WE KNOCK A CAN OF SODA ALL OVER THE COMPUTER!**

**WHOA! DID SHE LOSE ALL THE GRADES SHE'D JUST INPUT?**

**NOT THE POINT, GINGER. WILL YOU PAY ATTENTION? I THINK SHE'S HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME!**

**COULD YOU MOVE YOUR HEAD? LOOK-OFF! JUST BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO PANT & FOKING AROUND IN HER FILES DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S HAVING A HUFFE TORRID ONLINE AFFAIR!**

**WHAT? WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT AN ONLINE AFFAIR? WHAT DO YOU KNOW?**

**UH... NOTHING! I SWEAR! I GUESS I JUST, UH... GOT YOU CONFUSED FOR A SECOND WITH ONE OF MY MOM'S SOAP OPERA YEAH, THAT'S IT.**

**WHILE STAYING CURRENT IN HER FIELD, OUR WELL-ROUNDED GAL CHECKS ONE LAST TASK OFF THE LIST!**

**GOOD THING I'M NOT IN A RELATIONSHIP! I'D NEVER GET ANYTHING DONE.**